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limited conception, doubtless, is also due the fact that the author fails wholly to see in variation any criterion of age, or hint as to authorship (pp. 215-216). A more comprehensive survey of a considerably more limited field might have led to clearer results.

P. R. KOLBE.

Municipal University of Akron.

Catalogue of the Icelandic Collection Bequeathed by Willard Fiske. Compiled by HALLDOR HERMANNSON. Ithaca: Cornell University Library, 1914.

Altogether too few Germanic scholars are aware of the treasures which the Library of Cornell University houses in its fine building on the hill crest overlooking the valley of Lake Cayuga. I refer particularly to the Fiske Icelandic collection. To those who have not visited Cornell Library, which, by the way, in the same wing contains the same bibliophile's famous Dante and Petrarch collections, the present monumental catalogue will be a revelation.

A stately quarto volume of 755 pages on good paper, it is a handsome testimony, not only to the gifted owner's zeal and energy, but also to the indefatigable industry of the present curator, to whose labors we already owe six volumes of bibliographical monographs in the annual *Islandica*.¹ A few facts concerning the history and nature of the collection will be interesting to not a few.

The collection "was bequeathed to Cornell

University by Willard Fiske, Professor of North-European languages and Librarian of the University from 1868 to 1883. He died on September 17, 1904, and the collection came to the University Library in the spring of 1905. Mr. Fiske had commenced collecting Icelandic works about the middle of the last century. The visit (to Iceland) which he finally made in the summer of 1879 doubtless gave him opportunity to add many volumes to his library, besides making him personally acquainted with the people in whom he had taken so great an interest ever since his college days. . . ." At his death, the collection "numbered about 8,600 volumes, including pamphlets. In his will Mr. Fiske provided for the maintenance and increase of it the income of \$8,000 annually, and at the time when this Catalogue went to press the Collection numbered about 10,200 volumes on the shelves (excluding the Runic portion containing some 500 volumes)."

"The contents of the collection may be briefly summarized as follows. In the first place it contains all the editions and translations of the Old Icelandic and Old Norse texts so far as these have been obtainable; works on that literature, such as histories and commentaries; works on the language, religion, history, manners, and customs of the Scandinavian nations in early times, principally, of course, of the Norwegians and Icelanders; archaeological and ethnographical works; in short, all publications which, in one way or another, elucidate the Old Icelandic literature, the periods involved, and the subjects with which it deals, including even writings of modern authors in various countries, such as poems, novels, and dramas which have been influenced by that literature. In the second place, the collection comprises the modern Icelandic literature since the sixteenth century, beginning with the first book printed in Icelandic, the New Testament of 1540, thus covering Icelandic books, pamphlets, and periodicals, whether printed in Iceland or elsewhere, as well as writings of Icelanders in other languages than their own, and other works in foreign languages dealing with Iceland, the nature of the country, and its affairs; or, as Mr. Fiske himself expressed it, it

¹ Ithaca, 1908-13. I, Bibliography of the Icelandic sagas and minor tales, 1908; II, The Northmen in America, 1909; III, Bibliography of the sagas of the kings of Norway and related sagas and tales, 1910; IV, The ancient laws of Norway and Iceland, 1911; V, Bibliography of the mythical-heroic sagas, 1912; VI, Icelandic authors of to-day, 1913. A catalogue of the Runic library, formerly a part of the Icelandic collection, is in preparation.

embraces 'all the annals, travels, natural histories, government documents, ecclesiastical writings, biographies, and bibliographies, which can, in any way, throw light on the history, topography, indigenous products, commerce, language, and letters of Iceland.'"²

The broadness of interpretation of the term "Icelandic" as well as the virtual completeness of the collection, especially in conjunction with the very good Germanic library of the University, render Ithaca the only place in this country where research on the subject in all its aspects can be carried on. In fact, the collection is "the richest in existence, with the exception of the National Library in Reykjavík and the Royal Library in Copenhagen."

To be sure, there are hardly any mss.³ On the other hand, there is a surprising wealth of rare early books, reprints now difficult to procure, presentation and personal copies, frequently containing the autographs, notes, and reviews of noted scholars; also, of rare pamphlets, newspaper articles, etc. The collection is particularly rich in old printed bibles, graduals, psalmbooks, and books of devotion. Among the *curiosa* of the collection are the volumes of *grafskriptir* (epitaphs and obituary poems), *erfiljóð* (commemorative poems), and *tækifæriskvæði* (poems written for special occasions). These are all published separately and distributed at the funeral, wedding, etc., of the person in question, a custom which has been much observed in Iceland during the last century.⁴ In all probability it is a belated survival of the *Gelegenheitsdichtung* which flourished so abundantly on the continent of Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Each collection contains some 300 entries ordered to a nicety.

It is amusing to note that no less than 117 individuals with the patronymic Jónsson—of which number again 22 are Jón Jónssons—have been busy in a literary way; among them such shining lights as the learned priest Arn-

grim Jónsson (1568-1648), author of the *Crymogæa*; Runólfur Jónsson whose *Linguae Septentrionalis incunabula* was published together with Hickes' *Institutiones grammaticæ Anglo-Saxonicae et Mæso-Gothicae*, 1688; the historians Björn Jónsson and Bishop Finnur Jónsson; the poets Kristján and Hjalmar Jónsson; and Finnur Jónsson, the greatest living scholar in the wide realms of Old Norse language and literature.

It is rather humiliating to note that some of the best sagas still await the translator, as *e. g.*, the *Hrafnkelssaga Freysgoða*, the *Hervararsaga*, the *Gautrekssaga*, the *Hrólfs-saga kraka*—to mention only a few. Not even the famous *Speculum Regale* has ever been done into English.

The arduous work of cataloguing this great collection has been performed in an unexceptionable fashion. I have not discovered a single error in dates or pagination, notwithstanding the very numerous cross-references, and there are remarkably few misprints and omissions.

One of the most serious omissions is that of M. Lorenzen's *Gammeldanske Krøniker* and the cross-reference to G. Storm's *Kritiske Bidrag* (*Nyt Norsk Tidsskrift* I, 140, 388; and *Norsk Historisk Tidsskrift* 2den række I, 371). No mention is made of the *Publications of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies* (Urbana, 1911, ff.). Under the heading "Older Edda" also the partial translations, as *e. g.*, those of Herbert Green and E. E. Kellett might have been listed. By an oversight the complete translation in Vol. I of the *Corpus Poeticum Boreale* is omitted. The printing is flawless; only, it is very confusing to have a name continued on a succeeding page in black type (as if it were a new entry) without a "cont." or other sign to indicate the fact.

The subject-index at the end adds greatly to the usefulness of the catalogue; also the feature that the less known or older works are briefly characterized as to contents and treatment. This is well done.

L. M. HOLLANDER.

University of Wisconsin.

² I quote from the preface.

³ I note, though, a large vellum ms. of the *Jónsbók*.

⁴ As Mr. Hermannsson informs me.